

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 5th August 2024.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 1 Member of the Public.

099/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Eden and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

100/24 Declarations of Interest

101/24 Requests for Dispensation

None.

102/24 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public

The member of the public present had no issues to raise..

(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.

103/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1 July 2024

Chris Jewson pointed out that the name of the film referred to under Minute 093/24 should read 'The Great Escaper'.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1 July 2024 were approved as amended and signed by the Chair.

104/24 Planning Application

1) 24/00706/CUPRIO – Land at Little Intall Fields Farmhouse, Stoke Pound Lane, Stoke Prior – Proposed change of use from agricultural building to seven C3 dwellings and associated operational development

The Parish Council remained opposed to any housing development on this site and remained concerned that this proposed development might lead to further development at a later date. They also questioned whether the proposed access road was within the green belt area, the proximity of the proposed properties to the agricultural buildings, the closeness of unit 7 to the neighbouring property, the proposed access to the agricultural buildings from Stoke Pound Lane and how the landowner proposed to access the land around the proposed development.

105/24 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that the footpath down from the Ewe & Lamb Public House had been cleared to make it more accessible following recent complaints.

He also reported that the tunnel in the children's play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area had been removed and replaced with children's seating.. The trampoline had also been repaired.

106/24 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for July 2024

The payments totalling £5,913.66 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Method
Direct Debits Payment		
Cartridge World – Copier Rental	23.79	Direct Debit-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting		
M. Baker	50.00.	Online
C. Cooke	591.90.	“
Bromsgrove Printing Co Ltd	115.00,	“
C. Cooke	999.6	“
B&W Hire Ltd	217.32	“
C. Cooke	96.00.	“
Clerk's net salary for July 2024	XXXX	“
Sub total	3413.40.	-
Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's expenses – July 2024	55.40,	“
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/Nl on Clerk's salary – July 2024	463.18	“
Seiretto	238.00.	“
Eibe Play Ltd	254.40.	“
Worcestershire County Council	457.09	“
FC Payroll Services	44.40.	“
IDG Garden Services	864.00,	“
M. Baker	100.00.	“
Sub Total	2476.47	-
Total Value of Payments for June 2024	5913.66	

(2) Financial Management Statement for July 2024

was noted.

107/24 Film Night – 31 August 2024

The Chair reported that most of the banners had been put up and that Dan Bright had offered to provide catering on the night. The Clerk confirmed that parking had been arranged with Bromsgrove School, mobile toilets had been ordered and he was arranging for first aid cover.

108/24 Membership of CALC

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed not to renew the Parish Council's membership of CALC and NALC.

109/24 Stoke Heath Recreation Area – Refurbishment of Children's Play Area - Funding

The Clerk reported that he had started to look at possible funding streams towards the refurbishment of the play area but stressed that it was essential that the Parish Council sought

quotes for the work before any application for grant funding could be pursued. The Chair pointed out that it might be necessary for the Parish Council to use a significant amount of their reserves to support the project. After further discussion, it was unanimously agreed :-

- 1) The Clerk be asked to contact the 4 companies referred to in the Clerk's report together with Playground Installations UK Ltd to seek quotes and designs for the project.
- 2) The Clerk continues to look for suitable grant funding for the project.
- 3) That, if required, the Parish Council funds a large proportion of the project from their reserves

110/24 Parish Lengthsman's Report

In the absence of Chris Cooke, this item was deferred.

Following a question from Malcolm Gulliver, the Clerk was asked to find out why little progress was being made on the improvements to the A38.

111/24 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received a request for a grant from Bromsgrove and Redditch CAB. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed not to make a grant to this organisation.

112/24 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Dan Bright asked if the hedge by the new VAS on Shaw Lane could be cut back to allow the sign to be more visible. The Chair agreed to ask Chris Cooke to sort this out.

The Chair referred to the sad death of John Ellis but confirmed that no details were yet available regarding his funeral. It was agreed a card of condolence should be sent to his Partner. It was also agreed that a memorial bench should be purchased and installed at Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

Sue Abel commented on the increasing problem of seagulls in Stoke Prior and suggested that the District Council should be contacted to see what information they had on this problem.

Liz Eden reminded the meeting that the fence at Stoke Heath Recreation Area had still not been repaired.

The Clerk reported that the fence at Ryefields Road Recreation Area had been badly damaged in the far corner. The Chair agreed to go and inspect the damage before any action was taken to repair it.

113/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 2 September 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman