

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 10th June 2024.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 2 Members of the Public.

070/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Cooke and Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley.

071/24 Declarations of Interest

The Chair declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8(1).

072/24 Requests for Dispensation

None.

073/24 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public

A member of the public gave a short presentation on her plans for the future of Pipers Hill Farm, the reinstatement of the historic access track and the diversion of the existing public footpath..

(2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

Cty/Cllr Daisley was not present at the meeting but did submit a briefing note which was circulated to all Councillors.

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

No District Councillors were present at the meeting.

074/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20 May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 May 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

075/24 Planning Application

1) 24/00346/FUL – Oakdene, Copyholt Lane, Stoke Pound – Erection of two storey front and rear extensions, single storey side extension and other alterations including changes to fenestration, dormers and balcony areas

In considering this application, the Parish Council were reminded of previous applications pertaining to this property. The first related to the demolition of the existing dwelling and replacement with new single dwelling and detached garage which was granted. The new single dwelling was built on a different part of the curtilage and the detached double garage built on part of the original footprint.

The second application related to a lawful development certificate being granted for a detached outbuilding although the use of the building was restricted to “for the purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house”. The block plan on the new application showed the building to be

sited in front of the double garage, rendering it unusable as a garage. The block plan on the new application also appeared to show the existing garage as “upper patio”. The garage is still in existence and was now joined to the outbuilding in front of it. The combined footprint probably almost fully occupied the original footprint of the demolished dwelling house.

The current application for the dwelling house extension showed on the block plan that the outbuilding labelled as an existing garage and the garage labelled as the existing annex. The green belt floor space calculation document for the dwelling house extension used total floor area rather than footprint. It showed an increase in total floor area of 35% but in terms of increase in footprint area it was more like 55%.

The Parish Council felt that there appeared to be an already extensive amount of development in the green belt and it did not merit further development. They were concerned that parts of the previous developments were possibly not being used as intended. The Parish Council recommended that the Planners conduct a detailed site visit.

076/24 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

There were no urgent decisions to be reported.

077/24 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for May 2024

The payments totalling £4,825.16 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Method
Direct Debits Payment		
Cartridge World – Copier Rental	23.79	-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting		
B&W Hire	72.48	Online
NBB Recycled Furniture	948.00,	“
Ebay	37.32	”
Land Registry	59.94	”
DM Payroll Services Ltd	110.00,	“
P Williams	750.00,	“
Clerk's net salary for May 2024	XXXX	“
Sub total	3298.54	-
Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's expenses – May 2024	73.40,	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerk's salary – May 2024	453.43	“
IDG Garden Services	976.00,	“
Sub Total	1502.83	-
Total Value of Payments for May 2024	4825.16	

(4) Financial Management Statement for May 2024

was noted.

078/24 Audit 2023/24

(1) Internal Auditor's Report

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to note the report.

(2) Summary of Receipts and Payments as at 31 March 2024

The Parish Council approved the summary of receipts and payments for 2023/24 and agreed that they could be signed off by the Chairman and the Clerk.

(3) Annual Return and Governance Statement

The Parish Council gave their unanimous approval to the Chairman and the Clerk being given authority to sign off the Annual Audit Return and approval was also given to the Annual Governance Statement contained therein.

079/24 Film Night – 31 August 2024

After discussion, the Chair agreed to contact Eventures to see what options were available for a suitable film. It was important that the Parish Council were able to confirm all the arrangements at their next meeting on the 1 July.

080/24 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke was unable to attend the meeting.

081/24 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had been notified by the Council's insurers that there would be an additional premium of £287.39 in respect of the new play equipment installed at Shaw Lane Recreation Area.

082/24 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Paul Pittaway commented that he had been pleased with the response he had received from the Safer Neighbourhood Team in dealing with an incident in the local area. He suggested that it would help closer relations with the Police if the Safer Neighbourhood Team were invited to future meetings.

Sue Abel reminded the Council that they had agreed to review whether they would be able to help with the cost of grass cutting at the Church. The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to IDG Garden Services about the Parish Council paying for that part of the church yard which was part of the John Corbett Trail and the cost had been estimated at £150. After discussion, it was agreed by 10 votes to 2 that the Parish Council would pay for 2 cuts of that part of the church yard at a total cost of £300.

It was mentioned that the rules governing Parish Councils funding local churches may have been changed and the Clerk agreed to follow this up and report back to the Council.

Paul Eden pointed out that the fence at Stoke Heath Recreation Area had still not been repaired. The Clerk to get this sorted.

083/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 1 July 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman