

## **STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

**A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

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

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk).

### **055/23 Election of Chairman**

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

### **056/23 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.

### **057/24 Apologies**

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

### **058/24 Declarations of Interest 05924 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **060/24 Adjournment of Meeting to hear from Members of the Public**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

### **061/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8 April 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8 April 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

### **062/24 Planning Application**

**1) 24/00328/FUL – Yew Tree Farm, Copyholt Lane, Stoke Pound – Demolition of existing rear, single storey extension and proposed new rear single storey extension**

The Parish Council had no issues to raise on this application.

### **063/24 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting**

There were no urgent decisions to be reported.

The Chair reported that the new play equipment at Shaw Lane Recreation Area had been installed successfully and was already proving popular with families. He added that additional litter bins and a bench would be needed and it was agreed that the Clerk should go ahead and order 2 litter bins and 1 bench from NBB Recycled Furniture.

The see-saw which was on the site had been removed but would be installed at one of the other recreation areas.

## 064/24 Weekend Parking Issues on Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior

The Chair reported that there were increasing traffic problems at weekends when football matches were taking place at Meadow Park FC on the Hanbury Road. Vehicles were parking on both sides of the road making it dangerous for vehicles passing through the area. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Club asking to ensure that vehicles only parked on one side of the road or made use of parking facilities on the nearby industrial estates.

## 065/24 Finance

### (1) Invoices for Payment for April 2024

The payments totalling £62,579.09 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	<b>Cost £</b>	<b>Method</b>
<b>Direct Debits Payment</b>		
Cartridge World – Copier Rental	23.79	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>23.79</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting</b>		
Seiretto	162.00,	Online
ROSPA Play Safety	348.00,	“
Clerk’s net salary for April 2024	1355.26	“
IDG Garden Services	800.00,	“
Clerk’s Expenses – April 2024	130.68	“
C&O Electrical Services	320.00,	“
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks salary – April 2024	467.75	“
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3583.69</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting</b>		
FC Payroll Solutions	63.30,	Online
Zurich Insurance	1530.35	“
Chris Cooke	78.00,	“
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	55292.81	“
Avoncroft Arts Society	171.75	“
Chris Cooke	1835.40,	“
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>58971.61</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Value of Payments for April 2024</b>	<b>62579.09</b>	

### (2) Financial Management Statement for March 2024

was noted.

### <sup>(3)</sup> Chair's Allowance for 2024/25

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Chair's Allowance for 2024/25 should be increased to £750. It was also agreed to review the figure on an annual basis with a view to increasing it by 5% each year.

## 066/24 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke was unable to attend the meeting. The Chair did report that the gully sucker was due in the parish this week and it was intended to deal with all the issues raised previously by Chris Cooke.

## **067/24 Correspondence**

The Clerk raised the following items of correspondence:-

1. Michelle Baker had asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to support Tai Chi classes again this summer at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. The Parish Council agreed to support this.
2. Diane Malley had confirmed that she would no longer be doing internal audit work which meant that the Parish Council would need to find a new Auditor for 2024/25. However she would be continuing with her payroll services. She had quoted an annual fee of £135 plus a one off set up fee of £35 to provide this service to the Parish Council. The Clerk pointed out that this would be a considerable saving on the Council's current provider. It was agreed to change the payroll service to DM Payroll Services as soon as possible.
3. Bromsgrove District Council had notified the Parish Council that the owners of Appletrees, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior had lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate with regard to refusal of planning permission for the detached garage.
4. A Town and Parish Council Conference would be taking place on Wednesday 12 June at Wyre Forest District Council Offices, Kidderminster to which all Councillors were invited. The Clerk confirmed that he would circulate details to all Councillors.

## **068/24 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

Following a question by Chris Jewson, the Chair explained what was going on regarding the planning applications relating to The Firs. He suggested that it might be helpful if he and Chris Jewson made a site visit in the near future to see exactly what the owners were proposing.

Malcolm Gulliver asked about the arrangements for the 'picnic' proposed for the 25 August at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. The Chair confirmed that he had been in touch with the organisers and explained what was expected of them and that suitable public liability insurance was in place.

Sue Abel reported that the pupils from Stoke Prior Infant School were working on pictures to be displayed at the Church to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings. She asked to borrow the Council's display boards. The Chair agreed to arrange this.

Sue Abel stated that the Church were struggling to pay for the mowing of the church yard and asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to help with the cost. The Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council could not be seen to be funding the church. However part of the church yard formed part of the John Corbett Trail which was the Council's responsibility so it might be possible to pay for that part of the work. Sue Abel agreed to get further information on costs and the frequency of cuts etc before the Council would make any firm decisions.

Jill Howe commented that she was concerned about the amount of work going on at 12 Walls Road, Stoke Prior and the Clerk agreed to raise the issue with the District Council.

## **069/24 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 10 June 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Chairman