

## **STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

**A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 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).

### **114/24 Apologies**

An apology was received from Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

### **115/24 Declarations of Interest**

### **116/24 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **117/24 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time**

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

There were no members of the public present.

#### **(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.

### **118/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 August 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 August 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

### **119/24 Planning Application/Appeal**

**1) 24/00399/CPE – Sugarbrook Nurseries, Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Pound – Business storage, equestrian, stationing of caravan & associated residential amenity land and agricultural land (embankments) – Appeal to the Secretary of State following refusal by Bromsgrove District Council to grant a Certificate of Lawfulness for an Existing Use or Development**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that they had previously considered this application but declined to make any comment. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should submit some general comments to the Planning Inspector in behalf of the Parish Council. It was also agreed that he would circulate details of how individual Councillors could submit their comment direct to the Inspector.

### **120/24 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting**

The Chair reported that the memorial bench for John Ellis had arrived and would be installed at Stoke Heath Recreation Area next to the memorial bench for John Tidmarsh.

### **121/24 Finance**

#### **(1) Invoices for Payment for August 2024**

The payments totalling £4,998.00 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	<b>Cost £</b>	<b>Method</b>
<b>Direct Debits Payment</b>		
Cartridge World – Copier Rental	23.79	Direct Debit-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>23.79</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting</b>		
NBB Recycled Furniture	367.20.	Online
Norton	27.99	“
Eventures	500.00,	“
Clerk's net salary for August 2024	XXXX	“
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2,238.97.</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting</b>		
Clerk's expenses – August 2024	119.09	“
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerk's salary – August 2024	462.98	“
Community Heartbeat	162.00.	“
ERCO Systems	500.47	“
C. Cooke	512.70,	“
IDG Garden Services	978.00,	“
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,735.24,</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Value of Payments for June 2024</b>	<b>4,998.00,</b>	

## **(2) Financial Management Statement for August 2024**

was noted.

### **122/24 Shaw Lane Recreation Area**

The Chair commented on the ongoing dispute over the parking area/turning area at the Recreation Area. The Clerk circulated a title plan issued by HM Land Registry which clearly showed that the parking area was part of the Recreation Area and therefore belonged to the Parish Council.

After discussion, it was agreed:-

1. That a letter be prepared and circulated to all the residents in the immediate area making it clear that the land in question belonged to the Parish Council and if local residents were not prepared to recognise that fact then action would be taken to consolidate it as part of the Recreation Area.
2. That a sign indicating 'No Parking' be installed as soon as possible.
3. That the Clerk attempts to establish who was responsible for erecting the 'Private Road' sign at the entrance to the track.

### **123/24 Parish Lengthsman's Report**

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

The Chair reported that the County Council had finally now agreed to install HGV signs across the parish and Chris Cooke was liaising with their Officer on the final locations. It was also hoped that Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley would agree to fund the cost of repairing the illuminated signs.

### **124/24 Correspondence**

The Chair reported that he was currently working with a number of companies to get quotes and

designs for the play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. The Clerk would then be in a position to seek external funding. Paul Eden suggested that the Clerk should also look at the possibility of obtaining corporate funding for the project.

### **125/24 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

Malcolm Gulliver asked what was happening with the proposed signage near the Stoke Heath Recreation Area. The Clerk was asked to raise the issue with the County Council.

Malcolm Gulliver asked if it was possible for the Parish Council to receive updates on the various actions recorded in the minutes. The Clerk undertook to introduce an appropriate feedback system.

Sue Abel mentioned the Heritage Open Days on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September and requested use of the Parish Council display boards and artefacts which was agreed.

Sue Abel referred to the work being undertaken at the wood next the Picnic Site and mentioned that she had already raised it with the Clerk. The Clerk replied that the landowner had consent from the Forestry Commission to carry out a thinning operation on the woodland in that area. Concern was expressed that the work being undertaken was going beyond this and Sue Abel agreed to provide some photographs to highlight the issue.

Sue Abel commented on the increasing noise from the Metal & Ores site which was having an increasing impact on the local community. She was concerned that the operators were exceeding the terms of their licence and asked the Clerk to check on the current position with the County Council. It was pointed out that Councillors and other residents could also raise their concerns with the Environment Agency.

Liz Miller asked if the photographs of the winning gardens from this year's competition could be displayed on the website. The Clerk agreed to ensure that the photographs were forwarded to Liz Eden for the website.

Chris Jewson reported that the strimmer was in need of replacement rather than further repairs. After discussion, it was agreed that a new strimmer should be purchased and Chris Jewson was asked to source a suitable replacement.

In response to a question by Paul Eden, the Clerk confirmed that the grounds maintenance contract would be due for renewal with effect from the 1 April 2025. He proposed to ask for tenders in the New Year.

The Chair reminded Councillors that John Ellis's funeral was on Wednesday 4 September at Wasley Hill Crematorium. Donations would be made to Men in Sheds.

### **126/24 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 7 October 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Issue Raised</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
January 2024,	Carols in the Park – possible move to main hall at Avonctoft	Clerk booked hall for 14 December 2024
February 2024,	Hedge cutting at the Mount, Stoke Pound Lane	Clerk wrote to owners
March 2024,	Trees on Severn Trent land affecting brook & footpath	Clerk wrote to Severn Trent but no response received
	Litter on Shaw Lane between Bowling Green Inn & Wychbold Church	Clerk to contact Dodderhill PC. No response received
April 2024,	Request for dog litter signs on pathway between Harvest Close & Granary Road	Clerk raised the issue with BDC 3 times – still awaiting any action
	Replacement of tree near Orchard Crescent	PC agreed to look at replacing
	Installation of 2 <sup>nd</sup> defibrillator	Location still to be agreed
May 2024,	Need to seek new Internal Auditor	Clerk currently looking at options
	New payroll services agreed	Clerk set up new provider and now fully operational
June 2024,	Invite SNT to PC meetings	Clerk sent dates of future meetings to SNT
July 2024,	Look for grant funding for new play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area	Awaiting quotes for the work before Clerk can source funding
	Replanting of Memorial Garden @ Stoke Heath Recreation Area	Chair to provide tree in early Autumn plus additional planting agreed
	Two cuts of John Corbett Trail on church site to be funded by the Parish Council	Clerk liaising with IDG for invoice etc
August 2024,	Problems of seagulls	Clerk raised issue with BDC – no response
	Damaged fence at Ryefields Road Recreation Area	Chair to inspect
	Repair to fence rail at Stoke Heath Recreation Area	Completed!
September 2024,	Improvements on A38 – concerns about lack of progress	Issue raised with WCC via Cty/Cllr Daisley. Response received & circulated to all Councillors