

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 7th October 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 Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

127/24 Apologies

128/24 Declarations of Interest

129/24 Requests for Dispensation

None.

130/24 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.

131/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2 September 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 September 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

132/24 Planning Applications/Appeal

1) 24/00914/FUL – Morrisons, Buntsford Park Road, Bromsgrove – Creation of charging zone, erection of EV chargers, erection of canopy, sub-station enclosure, LV panel, meter cabinet and associated works

The Parish Council had no comment on this application.

2) 24/00900/CPL – Appletrees, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior – Proposed detached building to house new garage, fitness room, hobby room, snooker room and bar

The Parish Council were made aware that they would not normally have the opportunity to comment on this type of application but did wish to make the Planning Officer aware of their concerns about flooding in the area and the over development of this site.

3) APPEAL – 23/00898/FUL – Appletrees, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior – Proposed Two Detached Dwellings

The Clerk reminded the Council that had already submitted strong objections to this application. It was agreed that the Clerk should resubmit those objections direct to the Planning Inspector.

4) Update on Previous Applications (Copy attached)

was noted.

133/24 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that he had now received 4 quotes for the improvements to the play area at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. He has passed them to the Clerk who could now go ahead and apply for grants towards the cost of the project.

134/24 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for September 2024

The payments totalling £5,672.45 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		
C. Cooke	738.60,	Online
M. Baker	100.00,	“
Eventures	367.44	“
Garden Machinery Direct	468.00,	
Clerk's net salary for September 2024	XXXX	“
Sub total	3,025.34.	-
Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's expenses – September 2024	36.50,	“
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerk's salary – September 2024	466.29	“
PKF Littlejohn	504.00.	“
Wicksteed	244.44	“
M. Baker	75.00,	“
Worcestershire County Council	457.09	
IDG Garden Services	840.00,	“
Sub Total	2,623.32,	-
Total Value of Payments for September 2024	4,998.00,	

(2) Financial Management Statement for September 2024

was noted.

135/24 External Auditor's Report

was noted.

136/24 Shaw Lane Recreation Area

The Chair commented that he had prepared a letter to be sent to all the properties adjacent to the Recreation Area regarding access to the parking area. However he was unaware of any recent disputes over this area which may have been due to the time of year and the inclement weather. It was therefore agreed to defer issuing the letter until Spring 2025 dependent upon issues arising again at that time.

137/24 Remembrance Sunday – 10 November 2024 – Wychbold Church

Sue Abel confirmed that the Remembrance Service would be held on Sunday 10 November at Wychbold Church. She added that she would arrange a wreath and would be attending the service to represent the Parish Council. The Chair also stated that he hoped to be able to attend. It was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £100 to the British Legion in recognition of Remembrance Day.

138/24 Carol Service – Saturday 14 December 2024

It was agreed that the Carol Service would be held in the Main Hall at Avoncroft Arts Centre rather than an open air event. It was also agreed to purchase a christmas tree and decorations for the event. Dan Bright agreed to liaise with Stoke Prior School to get the schoolchildren involved on the day. He added that he would also be happy to organise refreshments.

139/24 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke made the following points:-

- He was still trying to arrange a meeting with Cty/Cllr Daisley.
- A number of gullies in the parish had now been cleared.
- A number of animal road signs had been stolen in the area.
- There had been an increase in 'fly tipping' particularly along the A4091.
- All cases relating to fly tipping were now being dealt with by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.
- The new HGV warning signs were on their way and were likely to be installed next Spring.

140/24 Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following items of correspondence:-

- A local resident on Redditch Road had asked for the old no parking sign on the access road opposite Stoke Heath Recreation Area to be removed as it was no longer legible. Chris Cooke agreed to deal with this.
- A local resident was organising a meeting to discuss concerns regarding the wedding venue at The Firs. The Chair confirmed that he would attend as an observer.
- The Heritage Friends Group had asked permission to display banners promoting the Halloween Extravaganza and Christmas Tree Festival on the fence at Stoke Heath Recreation Area. It was agreed that the Group could use the large notice board on the corner of the site rather than the fence as this might encourage other events to be advertised in the same way.

141/24 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Jill Howe mentioned that the Parish Council had been invited to have a tree at this year's Christmas Tree Festival but she asked if another Councillor would take on the responsibility. Sue Abel agreed to do this and Dan Bright also agreed to help. It was also agreed to buy new lights for the tree (200 non flashing).

Dan Bright reported that the local Police SNT were proposing to hold another pop-up session outside the shops in Ryefields Road later in the month.

Chris Jewson reported that he was now the Tree Warden for the parish.

Chris Jewson asked whether the website would be updated with new material. Liz Eden confirmed that more work was planned on the website.

Paul Pittaway commented on the amount of litter picking which had been going on along Wheatridge Road which had seen a vast improvement. The Clerk agreed to check with the District Council who was responsible.

142/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 4 November 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman

Issue Raised	Action Taken
Remembrance Sunday Service	Chair & Sue Abel attending. Donation of £100 to British Legion
Carol Service	Confirmed at Avoncroft Main Hall. Cllrs to arrange decoration of hall. DB to organise catering
Christmas Tree Festival	Confirmed PC taking part. SA & DB to organise tree and decorating
Updating of website	LE to look at what is needed. Clerk to provide additional material
Improvements on A38 – concerns about lack of progress	Issue raised with WCC via Cty/Cllr Daisley. Response received & circulated to all Councillors