

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 4th November 2024.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), Sue Abel, Dan Bright, Malcolm Gulliver, Jean Jackson, Liz Miller and Paul Pittaway.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and D/Cllr David Nicholl.

143/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Liz Eden, Paul Eden, Jill Howe, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

144/24 Declarations of Interest

145/24 Requests for Dispensation

None.

146/24 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

Cty/Cllr Daisley was not present at the meeting.

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

D/Cllr Nicholl briefly referred to the introduction of the Ward Fund which would make available £2,000 to be spent on minor projects, the need to highlight Operation Snap which related to the reporting of HGVs not adhering to signage and his forthcoming meeting with Cty/Cllr Daisley on highway issues.

147/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 October 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 October 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

148/24 Planning Applications/Appeal

1) 24/01072/PIP – 87 Redditch Road, Bromsgrove – Construction of 2 Detached Dwellings to the Rear of the Property

The Parish Council had no issues with this application. They were however unsure where parking would be for the existing property.

2) 24/01067/CUPRIO – Land off Little Intall Fields, Stoke Pound Lane, Stoke Prior – Proposed change of use from Agricultural Building to 7 C3 Dwellings and Associated Operational Development

The Parish Council remained totally 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 the fact that the parking provision for properties 3 to 7 had been moved thus spreading the site into the green belt area along with the proposed access road. The Parish Council were also unhappy with 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.

149/24 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that he had received a letter from a resident of Wyche Cottages setting out a number of issues relating to the roadway between the cottages and the Recreation Area. He asked the Clerk to circulate the letter to all Councillors with a request that they respond with any information they may have on the issues raised in the letter.

He added that he had also agreed with Dodderhill Parish Council that we would repaint the tunnel under the railway bridges in Shaw Lane and cover up the graffiti.

150/24 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for October 2024

The payments totalling £7,472.23 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		
Etsy	14.98	Online
C. Cooke	1033.20,	“
Clerk's net salary for October 2024	XXXX	“
Sub total	2,391.76.	-
Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's expenses – October 2024	43.10,	“
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerk's salary – October 2024	463.18	“
Society of Local Council Clerks	188.00.	“
British Legion	100.00,	“
IDG Garden Services	3780.00,	“
C. Cooke	482.40,	
Sub Total	5,056.68,	-
Total Value of Payments for October 2024	7,472.23,	

(2) Financial Management Statement for October 2024

was noted.

(3) Mid Year Budget Report as at 30 September 2024

After the Clerk had responded to questions, it was agreed to note the report.

151/24 Dates of Meetings December 2024 to December 2026

was noted.

152/24 Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk reported that, having taken advice from CALC, he had received 2 quotes for the position of the Parish Council's Internal Auditor. The first quote had been for £300 and the second had been for £390. During discussion, the Clerk expressed his preference for the first quote and recommended the Parish Council to appoint Ruth Mullett as their Internal Auditor for 2024/25.

It was then unanimously agreed that Ruth Mullett be appointed as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for 2024/25 at a cost of £300.

153/24 Christmas Trees

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that last year they had 3 trees across the parish at a cost of £450. After discussion, it was agreed that trees should again be planted at Stoke Heath Recreation Area, at the junction of Ryefields Road and Shaw Lane and at the junction of Westonhall Road and Shaw Lane. It was also agreed that a fourth tree should be planted at the junction of Wheatridge Road and Hanbury Road. The total cost was likely to be £600.

The Clerk also confirmed that a new set of lights would be needed for the additional tree and it was agreed that that Clerk should purchase them.

With regard to the Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival, it was confirmed that Dan Bright was organising this with help from Sue Abel.

154/24 Carol Service – Saturday 14 December 2024

Dan Bright confirmed that he had liaised with Stoke Prior School and it had been agreed that a group of schoolchildren would attend the service and sing 2 carols. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange the purchase of an artificial tree and lights for the event. The Chairman confirmed that arrangements for refreshments was in hand.

155/24 Parish Lengthsman's Report

The Chair reported the following points in the absence of Chris Cooke:-

- He was due to meet with Cllr Daisley in the next week or two.
- The District Council had swept Hanbury Road but Shaw Lane remained to be done. The Clerk agreed to chase the District Council.
- The County Council had still not taken any action regarding the garden intruding onto the highway on Whitford Bridge Road.
- The new HGV warning signs had all been agreed and were likely to be installed next Spring.

156/24 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the national pay award for 2024/25 had been agreed and took effect from the 1 April 2024 giving a £0.60p per hour increase across the board. The Parish Council noted that they were committed to this increase under the terms of the Clerk's contract.

157/24 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Paul Pittaway reported that roadworks were being undertaken in Harrow Close and Harvest Close for a period of 16 days.

Dan Bright stated that he would publish information about Operation Snap on social media.

Liz Miller asked that the Christmas Lights competition be published on Stoke Prior Network and the Parish Council's website.

Sue Abel suggested that it would be helpful to organise refresher training for the defibrillators plus some basic first aid training. It was agreed that this should be looked at the new year.

158/24 Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman

Issue Raised	Action Taken
Issues relating to Shaw Lane Recreation Area and the adjacent road	Letter received from resident to be circulated to all Councillors seeking information of issues raised for further discussion at a future PC meeting
Appointment of Internal Auditor	Clerk to confirm the appointment
Purchase of Christmas trees for the parish	Clerk to organise the purchase of 4 trees and appropriate lights
Carol Service	Confirmed at Avoncroft Main Hall. Cllrs to arrange decoration of hall. Clerk to purchase Christmas Tree. DB to organise catering and attendance of children from Stoke Prior School.
Christmas Tree Festival	Confirmed PC taking part. SA & DB to organise tree and decorating
Operation Snap	DB to arrange promotion on social media
Updating of website	LE to look at what is needed. Clerk to provide additional material. Website to include information about the Christmas Lights competition on website and Facebook
Defibrillators/First Aid	PC to consider refresher training in use of defibrillators and basic first aid training