

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 2nd December 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), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 1 Member of the Public.

159/24 Apologies

None.

160/24 Declarations of Interest

The Chair declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6(1).

161/24 Requests for Dispensation

None.

162/24 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time (1) Members of the Public

The member of the public present had no comments to make.

(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.

163/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 November 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

164/24 Planning Applications

1) 24/01132/FUL – 1 Rosemary Drive, Stoke Prior – Single storey side extension, Garage conversion, New Porch & New side window

The Parish Council supported this application.

2) 24/01027/FUL – The Cottage, Buntsford Hill, Bromsgrove – Side extension at first floor level over existing kitchen utility

The Parish Council had no issues with this application.

3) 24/01129/FUL – Wharf Cottage, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior – Infill of loggia below existing balcony area to increase habitable floor area

The Parish Council supported this application.

4) 24/01205/CPL – Appletrees, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior – Side extension at first floor level over existing kitchen utility

The Parish Council had no issues with this application.

165/24 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None. The Chair reminded the meeting that it had been agreed with Dodderhill Parish Council that we would repaint the tunnel under the railway bridges in Shaw Lane and cover up the graffiti.

166/24 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for November 2024

The payments totalling £4,530.81 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		
Boston Seeds	110.99	Online
UK Christmas World	89.98	“
The R”ange	109.99	
The Range	12.49	“
Reynolds Xmas	600.00,	“
Bromsgrove Printing	66.00,	“
The Heritage Friends Group	25.00,	“
Clerk's net salary for November 2024	XXXX	“
Sub total	2,391.76.	-
Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's expenses – November 2024	153.89	“
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerk's salary – November 2024	624.09	“
Bullivant Media	180.00.	“
DM Payroll Services Ltd	75.00,	“
IDG Garden Services	708.00,	“
C. Cooke	27.00,	
Sub Total	1,767.98,	-
Total Value of Payments for November 2024	4,530.81,	

(2) Financial Management Statement for November 2024

was noted.

167/24 Renewal of Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2025/27

The Clerk confirmed that he was making arrangements to advertise for tenders for the new contract in January 2025 with a view to the Parish Council making a decision on the new provider at their February 2025 meeting. Paul Eden expressed concern that this was leaving too short a time before the contract was due to commence on the 1 April 2025. The Clerk agreed to look

again at the timing.

It was also agreed that the new tender and contract should include the weekly emptying of the litter/dog bins and the maintenance of the Parish Council's flower boxes.

[Clerk's Note: The advert for the tender was published on the 12 December 2024 will a closing date for applications of the 10 January 2025]

168/24 Film Night 2025

It was unanimously agreed that the next Film Night should be held on Saturday 30 August 2025. Details of the film to be shown to be agreed at a later date.

169/24 Shaw Lane Recreation Area

After the Chair had confirmed that all Councillors had received a copy of the letter from a resident of Wyche Cottages, the Clerk reported that he would be collecting some historical Parish Council documents from the County Archive Service to allow him to research the background to the Recreation Area and surrounding area. He aimed to bring a report back to the January 2025 meeting which would form the basis of the Parish Council's response to the resident's letter. This would depend on the volume of material that required reviewing.

170/24 Carol Service – Saturday 14 December 2024

Dan Bright confirmed that the arrangements for the Carol Service were all in place. Rev Ray Khan would be attending the Service together with children from Stoke Prior School. It was also confirmed that all the arrangements for refreshments for the evening were in place.

171/24 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke commented:-

- He and the Clerk had been liaising with North Worcestershire Water Management about the drainage issues in Brickhouse Lane.
- The District Council had still not removed the 50+ bags of litter from his site despite numerous requests
- Shaw Lane still needed sweeping on both sides between Ryefields Road junction to the two bridges. The Clerk agreed to chase the District Council.
- The County Council were liaising with Land Registry regarding the garden intruding onto the highway on Whitford Bridge Road.
- The John Corbett signs were in need of retreating. It was agreed that this should be done as soon as possible.

172/24 Correspondence

None.

173/24 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Sue Abel complimented Dan Bright on the tree he had produced on behalf of the Parish Council P for the Christmas Tree Festival at the Church.

Jill Howe asked if the footpath on the sharp bend in Shaw Lane could be cleared of leaves and soil as it was becoming dangerous underfoot. Chris Cooke agreed to have a look at the problem.

Jill Howe asked the Parish Council to write to the owners of The Priory in Brickhouse Lane asking them to cut back the trees were overhanging into the roadway. It was agreed that the Clerk should

write accordingly.

174/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 13 January 2025 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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. Clerk reviewing historical data on the issues.
Updating of website	LE to look at what is needed. Clerk to provide additional material.
Defibrillators/First Aid	PC to consider refresher training in use of defibrillators and basic first aid training
Overhanging trees in Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior	Clerk to write to property owner requesting that trees are cut back.
New Contract for Grounds Maintenance	Clerk to issue notice in local press and to receive tenders as submitted. Deadline for tenders being 10 January 2025