

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 13th January 2025.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), D/Cllr David Nicholl and 1 Member of the Public.

001/25 Apologies

Apologies were received from Liz Eden, Malcolm Gulliver, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

002/25 Declarations of Interest

003/25 Requests for Dispensation

None.

004/25 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public

A member of the public referred to parking issues he was facing outside 154 Shaw Lane caused by vehicles belonging to residents of Weston House Mews. The Chair pointed out that although Weston House Mews was within the parish, his property was actually in Dodderhill Parish. However he understood the problem and asked the Clerk to look into the matter to see if help or advice could be provided.

(2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

Cty/Cllr Daisley was not at the meeting.

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

D/Cllr Nicholl commented on the following issues:-

- The 145 bus service would continue to be in service.
- He had £2000 available in his Ward Fund to help with any local projects. The Chair stated that this would be considered later in the meeting.
- Bus shelter at the junction of Shaw Lane and Hanbury Road – The Chair pointed out that this shelter was not owned by the Parish Council but they would be willing to take over responsibility for it but would need the owners permission first. D/Cllr Nicholl agreed to contact the owner.

005/25 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2 December 2024

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

006/25 a District Councillor's Divisional Fund

After the Chair had reminded the meeting that D/Cllr Nicholl had a fund of £2,000 which he could make available to the Parish Council towards a specific project, it was agreed that the purchase of a new VAS would be a useful asset to help monitor traffic speeds across the parish. It was proposed to move the new VAS to various sites rather than being static at one location. The Clerk was asked to submit the request for funding to D/Cllr Nicholl.

007/25 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

008/25166/24 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for December 2024

The payments totalling £4,797.93 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		
M. Swift	36.00,	Online
Eventures	500.00,	“
Freshair Fitness	323.52	
Bullivant Media	90.00,	“
Clerk's net salary for December 2024	XXXX	“
C. Cooke	454.80,	“
Sub total	2,791.22,	-
Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's expenses – December 2024	115.40,	“
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/Ni on Clerk's salary – December 2024	481.22	“
IDG Garden Services	360.00.	“
Community Heartbeat	162.00,	
DM Payroll Services Ltd	67.50,	“
IDG Garden Services	708.00,	“
C. Cooke	796.80,	
Sub Total	1,982.92.	-
Total Value of Payments for December 2024	4,797.93D	

(2) Financial Management Statement for December 2024

was noted.

(3) Budget Situation as at 31 December 2024

This was noted.

009/24 Budget and Precept for 2024/25

The Parish Council discussed the precept options set out in the Clerk's report after which Paul Pittaway, seconded by Jean Jackson, then proposed:-

That the Parish Council –

- (i) approves a precept for 2025/26 of £64,985.00 (Option 2).
- (ii) approves the proposed budget for 2025/26 as set out in the Clerk's report.

On being put to a vote, 6 members voted for the the proposal. There were no votes against and there were 2 abstentions.

It was noted that the Clerk would submit a final budget for 2025/26 at the April 2025 meeting when the final balance as at 31 March 2025 would be available.

010/25 Shaw Lane Recreation Area

The Chair referred to the historical information that the Clerk had unearthed and the suggested response to the letter from a local resident. He pointed out that it was clear that the area referred to a 'turning area' was exactly that and had never been regarded as a parking area.

It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the resident's letter as proposed. It was also agreed that a suitable sign with the wording 'Turning Area Only – No Parking At Any Time' should be installed as soon as possible and that the local resident be informed of this intended action as part of the Clerk's response.

011/25 Parish Lengthsman's Report

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

012/25 Correspondence

None.

013/25 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Jill Howe reported that the 30mph sign near Happy Bank Farm, Stoke Pound Lane had fallen down. The Clerk agreed to report this to the Parish Lengthsman

Dan Bright also reported that the HGV sign at the junction of Stoke Pound Lane and Hanbury Road was down. The Clerk agreed to report this to the Parish Lengthsman.

Paul Eden commented that the Parish Council's storage container appeared to be damp. The Chair agreed to check on this.

014/25 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 3 February 2025 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman

Issue Raised	Action Taken
Issues relating to Shaw Lane Recreation Area and the adjacent road	Clerk undertook detailed examination of past records relating to the issues raised. Drafted response to resident which PC agreed could be sent to resident concerned.
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
New Contract for Grounds Maintenance	Tenders received and issued to all Cllrs. Final decision to be made at February meeting