

## STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

**A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.**

**Present:** Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), Sue Abel, Dan Bright, Malcolm Gulliver, Jill Howe, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson and Liz Miller.

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 1 Member of the Public.

### **015/25 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Liz Eden, Paul Eden, Jean Jackson, Paul Pittaway and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

### **016/25 Declarations of Interest**

Dan Bright declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Agenda 9.

### **017/25 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **018/25 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time**

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

A member of the public referred to the continuing drainage problems in Brickhouse Lane and asked whether there was anything the Parish Council could do to get the problem sorted. The Chair suggested that D/Cllr David Nicholl should be asked to look into the matter and also ask the Clerk to write to North Worcestershire Water Management to push the case for some action.

#### **(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.

### **019/25 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13 January 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 January 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

### **020/25 Planning Applications**

**(i) 24/01259/FUL – Sharpway Cottage, Sharpway Gate, Harbours Hill – Proposed rear wc shower room to replace the existing store and internal wall removal for the reallocation of spaces and alteration and replacement of openings to the rear**

The Parish Council had no issues with this application.

**(ii) 24/00939/FUL – Field View House, 5 Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior – Proposed link structure to form covered walkway and entrance lobby between the house and garage approved under Reference 24/00221/FUL**

The Parish Council noted that they had expressed concerns about the related application no. 24/00221 and felt that those concerns should be reiterated in relation to this application particularly with regard to the possibility of the new area becoming part of the accommodation at a later date.

**(iii) 24/01292/CPE – The Laurels, Copyholt Lane, Stoke Pound – Use of building as**

## Laurels 2 as a self-contained dwelling

The Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

### (iv) 15/0675 – Meadows Farm, Moorgate Road, Harbours Hill – Removal of rear entrance lobby to kitchen and construction of a conservatory to the rear and side

The Parish Council were very concerned that the proposed conservatory would not be in keeping with this property given its listed building status. They were not prepared to support this application.

### (v) Update on Previous Applications

This was noted.

With regard to application no. 24/01205 which had been approved by the District Council, the Clerk reported that another CPL application had been submitted adding a swimming pool to the proposed development. The Parish Council were unhappy with this new situation and felt that it was inappropriate to house a swimming pool in the same building as a workshop and garage. The Clerk was asked to inform the District Council accordingly

## 021/25 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that urgent repairs had been carried out on the fence at Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

The Chair also referred to the parking issues on Shaw Lane outside and opposite the Great Western House development. He asked the Clerk to contact the residents of Great Western Mews to remind them that they had off road parking and not to park on Shaw Lane which was causing issues for other local residents.

## 022/25 Finance

### (1) Invoices for Payment for January 2025

The payments totalling £4,764.88 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Method
<b>Direct Debits Payment</b>		
Cartridge World – Copier Rental	23.79	Direct Debit-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>23.79</b>	
<b>Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting</b>		
Signtech Ltd	19.80,	Online
Bromsgrove Computer Centre	20.00,	“
Clerk's net salary for January 2025	XXXX	“
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,430.41,</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting</b>		
Clerk's expenses – January 2025	90.89	“
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/Ni on Clerk's salary – January 2025	483.10,	“
Worcestershire County Council	457.09	“
Avoncroft Arts Society	289.50,	“
IDG Garden Services	363.00.	“
C. Cooke	1627.10,	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3,310.68.</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Total Value of Payments for January 2025</b>	<b>4,764.88,</b>	
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## **(2) Financial Management Statement for January 2025**

was noted.

[At this juncture, Dan Bright left the meeting]

### **023/25 Renewal of Grounds Maintenance Contract 2025-2027**

The Parish Council discussed the various tenders in detail but agreed that final decision would be between the tenders submitted by IDG Garden Services and Regal Compost. Further discussion then took place on the merits of the two companies before a vote was taken.

On being put to a vote, 4 Councillors voted in favour of IDG Garden Services and 3 in favour of Regal Compost.

Following this decision, it was also unanimously agreed that the contract should include a clause to the effect that the Parish Council would review IDG Garden Services' performance after the first year of the two year contract.

The Clerk was instructed to ensure that the details of the contract were clearly set out and accepted by IDG Garden Services.

[At this juncture, Dan Bright returned to the meeting]

### **024/25 Membership of CALC**

The Clerk explained that there were potential changes coming to all tiers of local government as a result of the Government White Paper on English Devolution and he felt that it was now important that the Parish Council rejoin CALC to have the support of that organisation rather than being left to fend for itself. He also pointed out that following negotiations through CALC, NALC had agreed to waive their subscription fee for 2 years.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should rejoin CALC with immediate effect.

### **025/25 Purchase of VAS**

The Clerk reminded the Council that they had submitted a bid to D/Cllr David Nicholl's Divisional Fund towards the cost of a new VAS. It had now been confirmed that the Council would receive a grant of £1500 towards the cost. As a result it was agreed to go ahead and purchase a portable speed indicator device with smiley/angry face at a cost of £3,289.00 plus VAT.

### **026/25 Review of Risk Register**

Following questions from Chris Jewson, the Risk Register was accepted.

**[Clerk's note:** The Clerk decided to further review the Risk Register with a view to resubmitting it the Parish Council for approval]

### **027/25 Parish Lengthsman's Report**

In the absence of the Parish Lengthsman, the Chair reported on the recent collection of litter around the parish. He also referred to a request which had been received regarding the ownership etc of a small piece of land at the junction of Copyholt Lane and Stoke Pound Lane which was referred to as the parish field. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should try to find out the ownership of the land before any decision was made about what to do with it.

## 028/25 Correspondence

The Clerk referred to an email he had received from a resident of Henbrook Gardens requesting additional dog bins on the perimeter of the estate and more frequent emptying of the existing bins. It was pointed out that responsibility for this work rested with the management company for the estate. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Barratts and ask them to deal with the problem.

## 029/25 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Jill Howe reported that she had received an email from a member of Bentley Parish Council regarding speeding along Copyholt Lane asking whether the Parish Council would be willing to work with them to try and reduce the speed limit along country lanes. The Chair suggested that she reply to the email and ask them to contact the Clerk direct.

Sue Abel asked for the bench on the Hanbury Road (opposite the Church) to be repainted. The Chair replied that it was on the list.

## 030/25 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 10 March 2025 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Chairman

Issue Raised	Action Taken
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
Blocked gullies etc issues in Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior	Clerk asked to write to North Worcestershire Water Management to urge them to resolve the problems
Residents from Great Western Mews parking on Shaw Lane	Clerk to write to residents reminding them that they have own parking spaces offroad rather than parking on Shaw Lane
Purchase of portable VAS	Clerk to arrange purchase once confirmation of grant from D/Cllr Nicholl is received
Risk Register	Clerk to update register and resubmit to the March 2025 meeting
Land at junction of Copyholt Lane & Stoke Pound Lane	Clerk to investigate ownership
Dog Bins in Henbrook Gardens	Clerk to write to Barratts on behalf of residents to get their managing agents to improve the emptying of dog bins etc

